

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

2019-2020 Season

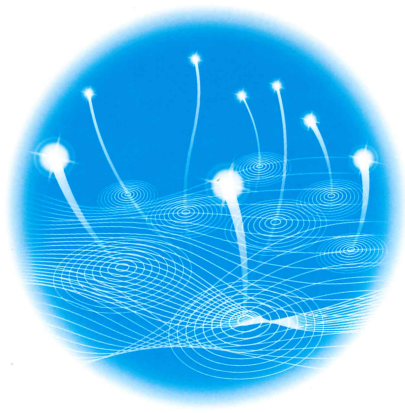
Alex Pauk,
Founding Music Director
& Conductor

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2019-2020 SEASON AT A GLANCE SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Season Sponsor

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Sunday October 6, 2019

I HIT MY HEAD AND EVERYTHING CHANGED

Thomas Adès (England)
Overture to "The Tempest" op.22a (2004)

Brian Harman (Canada)
I Hit My Head and Everything Changed (2019)**

Alexina Louie (Canada)
Love Songs for a Small Planet (1989)

Hans Abrahamsen (Denmark)
Left, alone (2015)*

Alex Pauk, conductor

Moira Ness, artist

The Elmer Iseler Singers, chamber choir

Avan Yu, piano



Sunday December 1, 2019

SUSTAIN

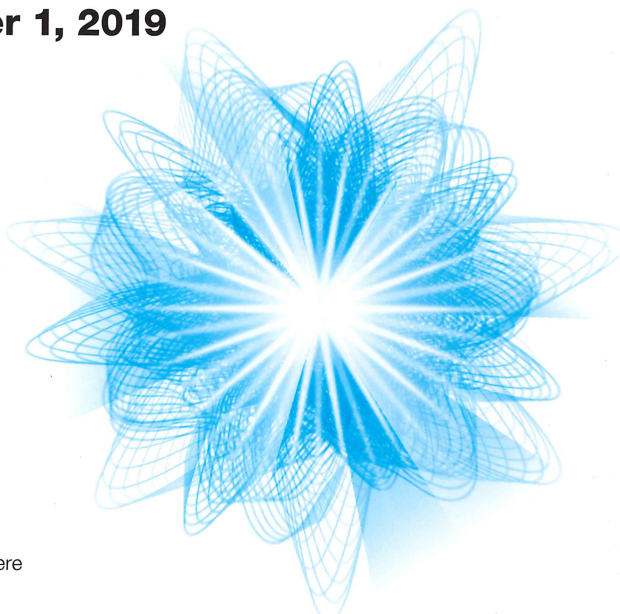
Andrew Norman (U.S.A.)
Sustain (2018)*

Adam Scime (Canada)
Afterglow (2019)**

José Evangelista (Canada)
Accelerando (2016)

Alex Pauk, conductor

Véronique Mathieu, violin



*Canadian Premiere **World Premiere

Wednesday February 26, 2020

ELECTRIC & ECLECTIC

John Adams (U.S.A)
Son of Chamber Symphony (2007)

James O'Callaghan (Canada)
Not non-other (2020)**

Alfred Schnittke (Russia)
Concerto Grosso No.1 (1977)

Alex Pauk, conductor
Marie Bérard, violin
Stephen Sitarski, violin
Stephen Clarke, harpsichord/prepared piano
James O'Callaghan, electronics



Sunday March 22, 2020

TAIKO RETURNS

Barbara Croall (Canada)
Mijidwewinan (Messages) (2008)

Christopher Goddard (Canada)
Piano Concerto (2020)**

Eugene Astapov (Canada)
A Still Life (2020)**

Maki Ishii (Japan)
Mono-Prism (1976)

Alex Pauk, conductor
Shannon Mercer, soprano
Nagata Shachu, taiko drumming group
Eugene Astapov, conductor
Christopher Goddard, piano
Barbara Croall, Anishinaabekwe performer (vocals/traditional flute)



April 16-18th, 2020

NEW WAVE FESTIVAL

Trinity St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor Street West

FREE to Subscribers





Photo by Bo Huang

RAISON D'ÊTRE – THEN, NOW, TOMORROW

As we begin Esprit's 37th season, I remain passionate about and energetically committed to discovering talented young composers to commission. As always, the essential, core components of Esprit's concerts are world premieres.

In both our Koerner Hall concerts and New Wave Festival I've made staying in tune with young composers Esprit's raison d'être. But I've also combined this mode of thinking with programming music by the best and brightest composers of all ages from around the world.

Building sustained musical relationships is a key strategy reflected in the appearance of composers and guest artists we've involved in the past who already have a strong connection with Esprit. We are making plans for future projects with those we are engaging for the first time to enable artistic growth over multi-year time spans.

Multi-media productions and cutting-edge blends of orchestral sound with electronics are featured along with visual art by Canadian Moira Ness and poetry by Polina Barskova, one of today's most important under-forty Russian poets.

A stunning line-up of guest artists joins us with the Esprit debut of the young soloist Avan Yu, winner of the Sydney International Piano Competition in Australia, being a feature. We are proud to announce that our opening concert will include the Canada Council presentation of the 2019 Molson Prize in the Arts to Esprit Board Member and Founding Director Alexina Louie.

When possible, I perform Canadian premieres of important works from abroad and I'm pleased to say Esprit will give the first Canadian performance of a brand-new work by Andrew Norman, fresh from its premiere with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Andrew is arguably today's most prominent young American composer.

Finally, for those who couldn't make it to Esprit's last performance of Maki Ishii's taiko spectacular, *Mono-Prism*, due to a terrible late spring winter storm, we've programmed it again - by popular demand.

My aim has been to offer well-thought-out programs of the best music of our time. This season please join me, our composers and musicians in an exciting and intriguing musical adventure made for you.

Sincerely,



Alex Pauk, C.M.
Music Director

I HIT MY HEAD AND EVERYTHING CHANGED

**Sunday
October 6
2019**

**8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall**

**ORDER NOW!
espritorchestra.com
Koerner Hall Box Office
416 408 0208**

Thomas Adès (England)

Overture to "The Tempest" op.22a (2004)

for orchestra

Brian Harman (Canada)

I Hit My Head and Everything Changed (2019)**

for orchestra with video art projections by Moira Ness

Alexina Louie (Canada)

Love Songs for a Small Planet (1989)

for chamber choir, harp, percussion and string orchestra

Hans Abrahamsen (Denmark)

Left, alone (2015)*

for piano (left hand) and orchestra

Presentation of 2019 Canada Council Molson Prize in the Arts to Alexina Louie

Alex Pauk, conductor

Moira Ness, artist

The Elmer Iseler Singers, chamber choir

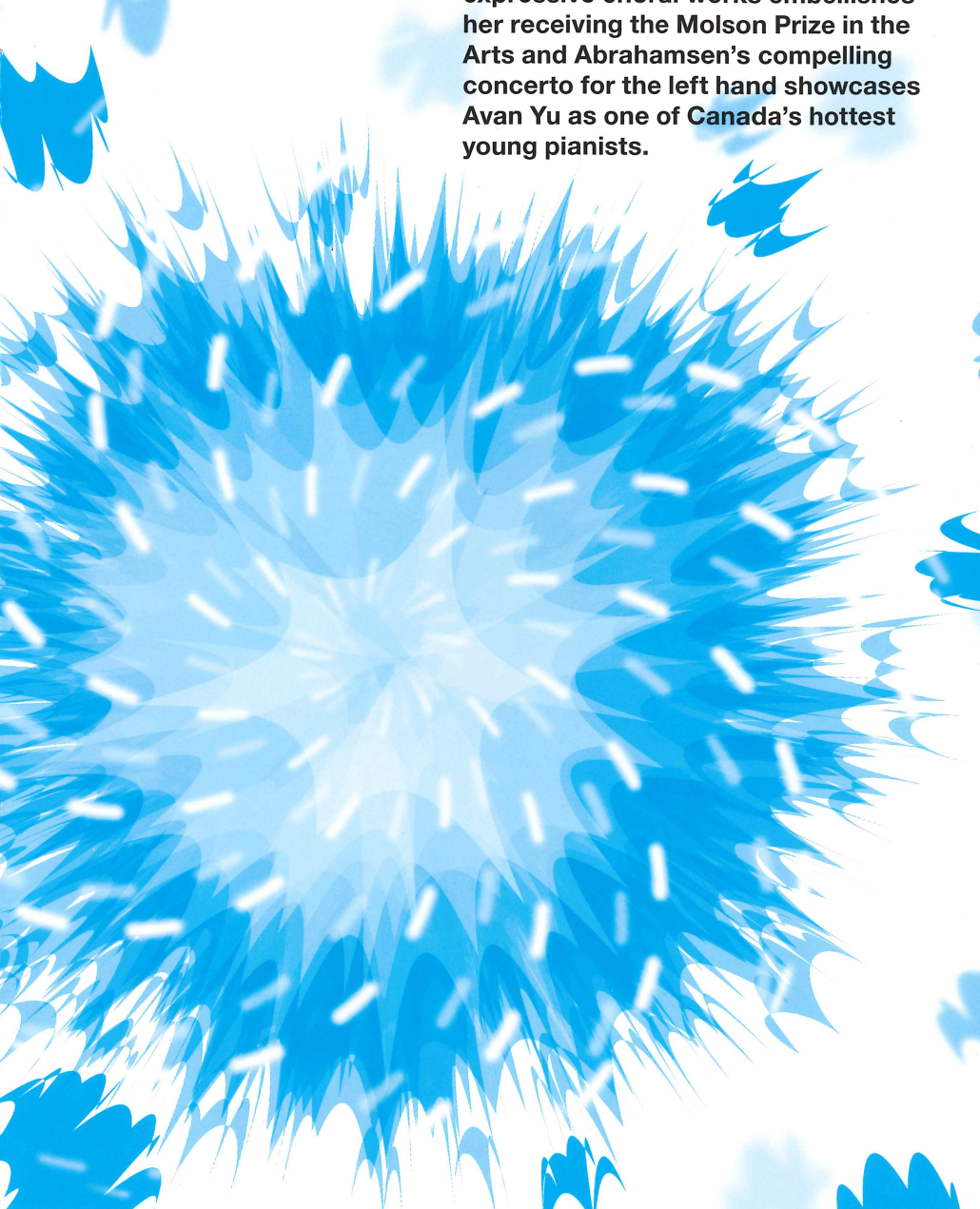
Avan Yu, piano

* Canadian Premiere

** World Premiere commissioned by Esprit Orchestra with generous support from the Ontario Arts Council

AD THING

A blast of powerful orchestral sound, Adès' opera overture provides for the dramatic launch of Esprit's season. Harman's integration of video art projections inspired by his collaboration with artist Moira Ness, brings new treasure to multimedia orchestral life. One of Louie's most expressive choral works embellishes her receiving the Molson Prize in the Arts and Abrahamsen's compelling concerto for the left hand showcases Avan Yu as one of Canada's hottest young pianists.





SU

Sunday December 1 2019

8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall

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416 408 0208

Andrew Norman (U.S.A)

Sustain (2018)*

for orchestra

Adam Scime (Canada)

Afterglow (2019)**

concerto for violin and orchestra

José Evangelista (Canada)

Accelerando (2016)

for orchestra

Alex Pauk, conductor

Véronique Mathieu, violin

* Canadian Premiere

** World Premiere commissioned by Esprit Orchestra with generous support from
The Michael and Sonja Koerner Charitable Foundation

***Afterglow* is the third panel of an orchestral tryptique commissioned from Scime by Esprit. In composing *Sustain*, Norman, America's most celebrated young composer, considered how audiences one hundred years from now might perceive and be affected by orchestral music. He then set out in a major new creative direction to produce what some have labeled a masterpiece. With inexorable force, Evangelista's piece draws listeners in and excites heartbeats in the same way his score affects the orchestra's playing.**

SUSTAIN

ELECTRIC ECLECTIC

**Wednesday
February 26
2020**

**8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall**

**ORDER NOW!
espritorchestra.com
Koerner Hall Box Office
416 408 0208**

John Adams (U.S.A)
Son of Chamber Symphony (2007)
for orchestra

James O'Callaghan (Canada)
Not non-other (2020)**
an interface between orchestra transformed electronically and
surround sound electroacoustics

Alfred Schnittke (Russia)
Concerto Grosso No.1 (1977)
for 2 solo violins, harpsichord, prepared piano and string orchestra

Alex Pauk, conductor

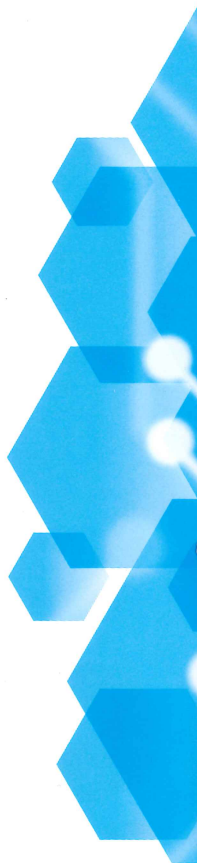
Marie Bérard, violin

Stephen Sitarski, violin

Stephen Clarke, harpsichord/prepared piano

James O'Callaghan, electronics

**World Premiere commissioned by Esprit Orchestra with generous support from
The Michael and Sonja Koerner Charitable Foundation



C & C

Electronic treatment of orchestral sound in concerts is rare so O'Callaghan's multi-speaker, surround sound blending of transformed orchestral sound with computer sound files radiates new sonic dimensions. Changing meters rapidly and scurrying all over the place, Adams' score is riveting and full of surprises. Schnittke looms large in recent music history and his remarkable *Concerto Grosso No.1* reveals the astounding vision and creative force of one of the greatest composers of the past century.



**Sunday
March 22
2020**

8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall

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Koerner Hall Box Office
416 408 0208



TAIKO R

Barbara Croall (Canada)

Mijidwewinan (Messages) (2008)

for Anishinaabekwe performer and orchestra

Christopher Goddard (Canada)

Piano Concerto (2020)**

concerto for piano and orchestra

Eugene Astapov (Canada)

A Still Life (2020)***

for soprano and orchestra (poetry by Russian poet Polina Barskova)

Maki Ishii (Japan)

Mono-Prism (1976)

for taiko drumming group and orchestra

Alex Pauk, conductor

Shannon Mercer, soprano

Nagata Shachu, taiko drumming group

Eugene Astapov, conductor

Christopher Goddard, piano

Barbara Croall, Anishinaabekwe performer (vocals/traditional flute)

**World Premiere commissioned by Esprit Orchestra with generous support from Chantal Perrot

***World Premiere commissioned by Esprit Orchestra with generous support from
The Michael and Sonja Koerner Charitable Foundation

Performance Sponsor of *Mijidwewinan*: The Max Clarkson Family Foundation

Program Sponsor: Japan Foundation

Ishii demands physical power, delicate precision, emotional strength and willpower from our guest taiko drummers to make *Mono-Prism* the explosive conclusion of our concert. Goddard's musical mastery extends to his performance as a pianist in what is, for the composer, a dream project that Esprit is thrilled to foster. Astapov brings his Russian heritage to the fore in setting a text by one of today's most important under-forty Russian poets. Croall's presence as a performer brings forth a powerful Anishinaabekwe plea for all humans to take care of our precious environment.

ETURNS

NEW WA FESTIVA

**Subscribers entitled to FREE
ADMISSION for New Wave Events!**

**April 16-18
2020**

**Trinity St. Paul's Centre
427 Bloor Street West**

**Keynote Speaker, celebrated
Canadian composer John Rea!**

A rendezvous, bridge, crucible, showcase, interface for
young composers, performers, and audiences.

The festival features concerts and events with music by young
composers, mentors and others, including

Stephanie Orlando

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė

John Rea

Misato Mochizuki

Alison Yun-Fei Jiang

Chris Paul Harman

Christina Volpini

Quinn Jacobs

Nico Muhly

Ticketing

Festival ticketing will be handled through the Esprit office. Single ticket
information and further program details will be available closer to the
festival start date. Stay tuned on our website for more information!

espritorchestra.com | 416-815-7887



AVE AL 2020

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“That’s Esprit for you: After 35 years of presenting contemporary music in groundbreaking compositions, the orchestra aims to keep giving fresh meat to hungry music lovers.”

— Trish Crawford, Toronto Star



Photo by Malcolm Cook

ENHANCE YOUR CONCERT EXPERIENCE

Molson Prize winning composer, Alexina Louie hosts engaging pre-concert chats in Koerner Hall immediately before every concert. These chats are the perfect way to engage with the featured artists in an informal discussion setting. Learn what to listen for in each piece, and gain insight into the creative process of the artists.

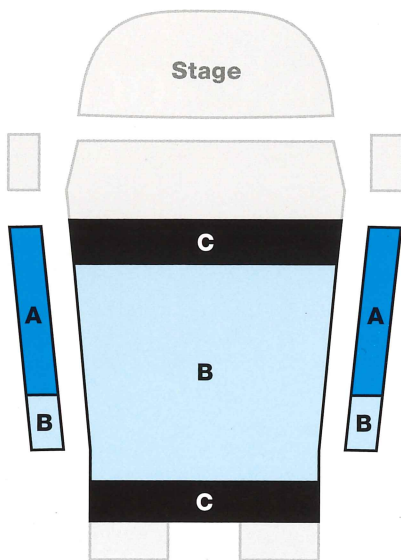
All Pre-Concert Chats are free with your ticket purchase and start at 7:15pm – 45 minutes before show time.

Subscribe today to reserve the best seats and save up to 20%!

In addition to the Koerner Hall concerts, subscribers are entitled to **FREE ADMISSION** to New Wave Festival events!

2019/20 Subscription Pricing Chart

	A	B	C
Adult Regular	\$210	\$175	\$145
Senior 65+	\$190	\$160	\$145
Under 30	\$115	\$105	\$85



A Parterre AB 1-12

B Parterre AB 13-16 / Orchestra Level E-Q

C Orchestra Level C, D, R, S

To Subscribe

The Weston Family Box Office (RCM)
TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning
273 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1W2
416 408 0208
espritorchestra.com

Box Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 12pm-6pm
Sunday/Holidays 3 hours prior to performance

Supporting great
contemporary
music, **locally.**

BMO



We're here to help.™

At BMO, we take pride in our local communities. That's why, each year, through various donations and sponsorships we are committed to providing our support. BMO is proud to support **Esprit Orchestra** and to be the 2019/20 season sponsor.

"[Esprit's] Koerner Hall concerts... reflect the philosophy (and formula) that has given the orchestra its remarkable consistency and astonishing staying power."

— David Perlman, *The WholeNote*



We need your financial support to help Esprit achieve all of its goals.

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- **Cheque mailed to Esprit Orchestra**
- **Online through canadahelps.org**

Charitable Number: 12258 4782 RR0001

**Esprit Orchestra gratefully acknowledges
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an Ontario government agency
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ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

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